



SPACE ADVENTURES

SPACE ADVENTURES

presents

SPACE TRIP TO THE MOON

MAY

A CHARLTON REPRINT

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

10¢

NOW! man's first trip to the MOON!

NICOLAS
ALBERTS



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SPUTNIK

The Name That Became A Household Word

When Russia launched Sputnik 1 and 2 the world held its breath. Was America sleeping while Russia worked? Were the Soviets to become the masters of Space?

No. We weren't sleeping — we are ready, and soon we will launch "The Baby Moon" then "Big Brother" and finally travel freely in Space! So now come with us as we take the

FIRST TRIP TO THE MOON

SPACE ADVENTURES

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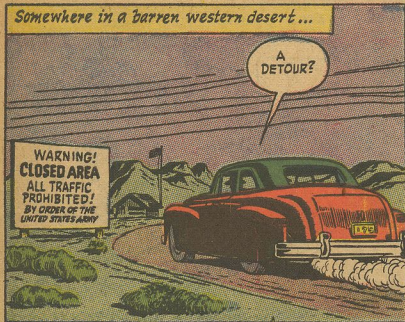
(Printed in U.S.A.)

SPACE ADVENTURES

Somewhere in a barren western desert ...

A
DETOUR?

WARNING!
CLOSED AREA
ALL TRAFFIC
PROHIBITED!
BY ORDER OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY

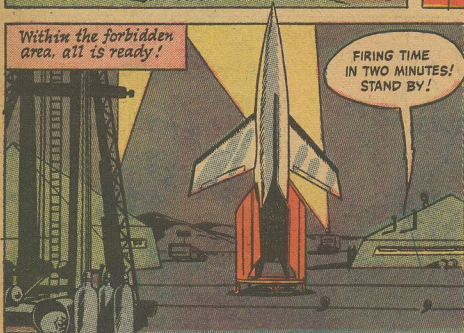


YES, SIR! THE ARMY IS
TRYING OUT A NEW ROCKET
EXPERIMENT IN THIS AREA
TONIGHT! SORRY, BUT
YOU CAN'T
GO IN!



Within the forbidden
area, all is ready!

FIRING TIME
IN TWO MINUTES!
STAND BY!

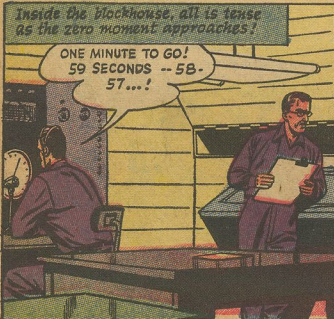


WE'RE SAFE IN THIS
CONCRETE OBSERVATION POST,
EVEN IF THE ROCKET EXPLODES!
BUT LET'S HOPE OUR SPACE
SATELLITE ROCKET SUCCEEDS
IN REACHING AN ALTITUDE
OF TWELVE THOUSAND
MILES ABOVE EARTH!



Inside the blockhouse, all is tense
as the zero moment approaches!

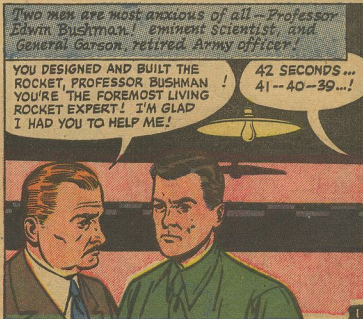
ONE MINUTE TO GO!
59 SECONDS -- 58-
57...!



Two men are most anxious of all -- Professor
Edwin Bushman! eminent scientist, and
General Garson, retired Army officer!

YOU DESIGNED AND BUILT THE
ROCKET, PROFESSOR BUSHMAN!
YOU'RE THE FOREMOST LIVING
ROCKET EXPERT! I'M GLAD
I HAD YOU TO HELP ME!

42 SECONDS...
41--40--39...!



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BUT YOU CONCEIVED THE ORIGINAL IDEA, GENERAL GARSON FOR YEARS YOU TOLD THE ARMY BRASS-HATS THAT A ROCKET SATELLITE COULD BE SENT UP TO CIRCLE EARTH! THEY NOT ONLY IGNORED YOU, BUT RETIRED YOU! WE'LL PROVE YOU WERE RIGHT!

...24 SECONDS
-23-22-21-20...!

But there is one other man vitally concerned in the thrilling project - Joe Coleman of Brooklyn, U.S.A.!

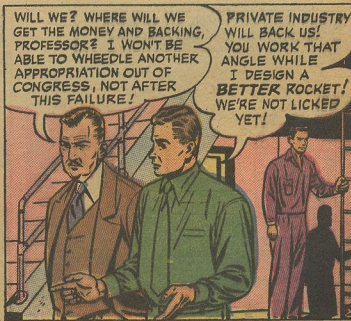
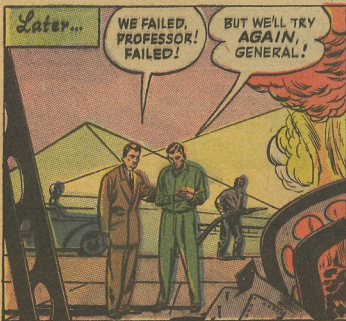
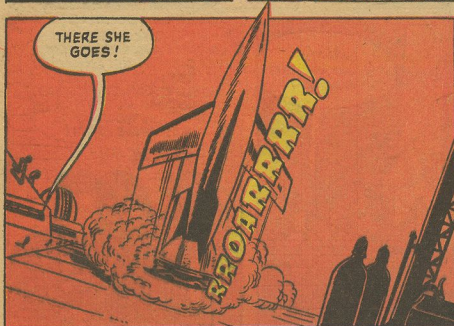
I'M THE GUY WHAT PULLS THE SWITCH AND MAKES THE ROCKET GO! BOY, WAIT'LL THEY HEAR OF THIS BACK IN BROOKLYN! I'LL BE AS FAMOUS AS THE DODGERS!

...11-10-9-8-7...!

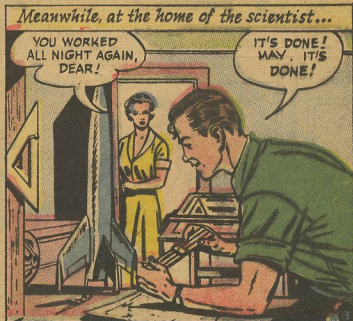
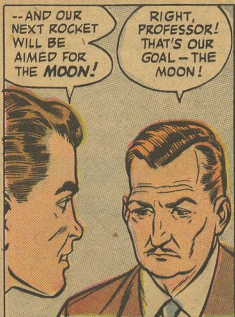
Slow seconds drag to their final climax!

...4-3-2-FIRE!

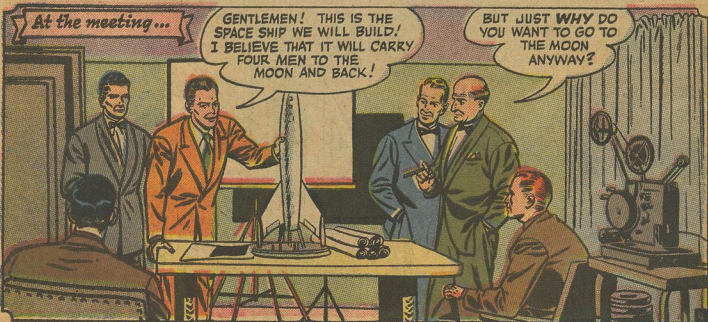
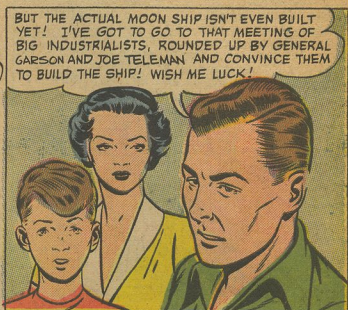
RIGHT ON THE NOSE!



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SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES

WHY? WHY DID COLUMBUS DISCOVER AMERICA? WHY DID BRAVE MEN FIGHT THEIR WAY TO THE NORTH POLE? IT'S PIONEERING! ADVENTURE! IT'S THE WHOLE HISTORY OF MANKIND THROUGH THE AGES -- EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN!

THAT'S WHY!



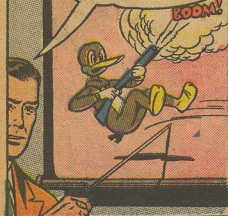
ALL RIGHT, BUT WILL YOUR SHIP REACH THE MOON? HOW CAN A ROCKET SHIP TRAVEL TWO HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND MILES THROUGH EMPTY SPACE? IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE!

WATCH! I HAVE A SPECIALLY PREPARED MOVIE USING THAT CARTOON CHARACTER, DANNY THE DUCK! OKAY, START THE PROJECTOR!

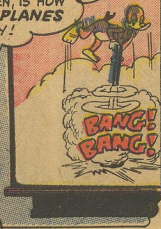


WHEN DANNY THE DUCK, FIRES A SHOTGUN, THE STRONG RECOIL OF THE EXPLOSION KNOCKS HIM BACKWARDS! THAT'S THE **BASIC PRINCIPLE** OF ALL ROCKETS!

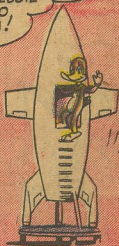
BOOM!



THIS IS EXAGGERATED, OF COURSE, BUT DANNY NOW EXPERIMENTS AND FINDS THAT THROUGH RECOIL HE CAN SOAR INTO THE AIR! AND THAT, GENTLEMEN, IS HOW ALL **JET PLANES** FLY!



SO NOW DANNY IS GOING TO ROCKET TO THE MOON, USING THE RECOIL PRINCIPLE TO LEAVE EARTH!



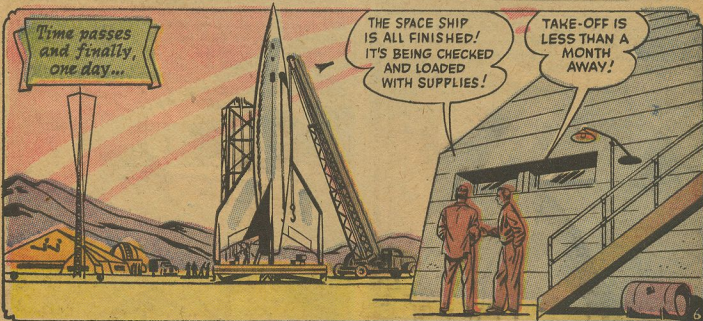
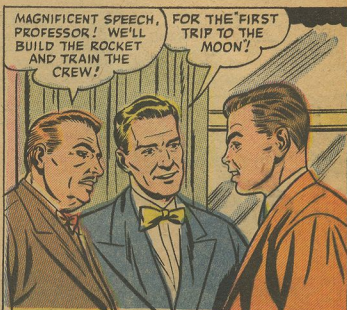
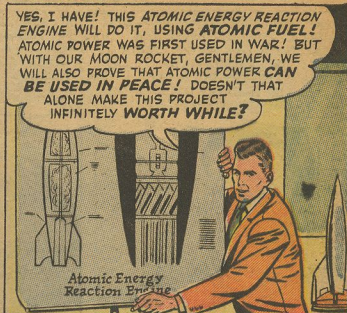
DANNY FINDS THAT HE MUST USE POWERFUL ROCKET FORCES TO BREAK AWAY FROM EARTH'S GRAVITATION, WHICH IS LIKE A TREMENDOUS MAGNET!



BUT NOTICE! ONCE DANNY WINS FREE OF EARTH'S PULL, HE CAN THEN SHUT OFF HIS ROCKETS AND **COAST** ALL THE REST OF THE WAY TO THE MOON IN FREE FALL! HE GOES OVER TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND MILES, GENTLEMEN, WITHOUT USING **ONE BIT OF FUEL!**



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SPACE ADVENTURES

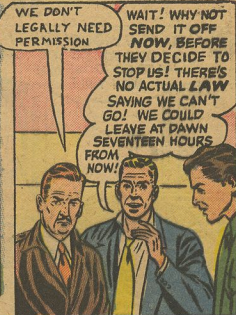


PROFESSOR
BUSHMAN
YOU LOOK
WORRIED!
WHAT'S THE
MATTER?

BAD NEWS, I'M
AFRAID! THIS
LETTER JUST CAME
FROM WASHINGTON,
D. C. !



THE COMMISSION OF ROCKET
EXPERIMENTATION MIGHT
DENY.... OUR REQUEST TO
SHOOT OFF THIS ROCKET!
SINCE IT USES ATOMIC FUEL,
THEY'RE AFRAID OF A BIG
ATOMIC EXPLOSION IF
IT FAILS!



WE DON'T
LEGALLY NEED
PERMISSION

WAIT! WHY NOT
SEND IT OFF
NOW, BEFORE
THEY DECIDE TO
STOP US! THERE'S
NO ACTUAL **LAW**
SAYING WE CAN'T
GO! WE COULD
LEAVE AT DAWN
SEVENTEEN HOURS
FROM
NOW!



IT'S CRAZY, TELEMAN!
WE HAVE NO TRAINED
CREW READY...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH
US? THE GENERAL AND
I CAN HANDLE THE
CONTROLS! YOU CAN RUN
THE ENGINE, PROFESSOR!
AND JOE COLEMAN
IS OUR EXPERT
COMMUNICATIONS
MAN!



I'M
WILLING!

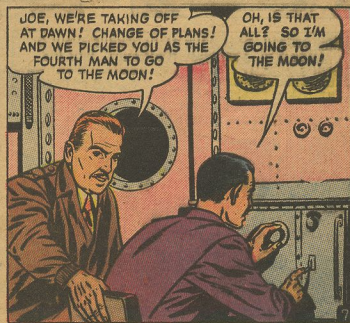
SO AM I!
THEY WON'T STOP
US, AFTER WE'VE
COME THIS
FAR!

GREAT! WE'LL
TAKE OFF AT
DAWN -- FOR
THE MOON!



I'D BETTER INFORM
JOE COLEMAN.
OF THE NEWS...

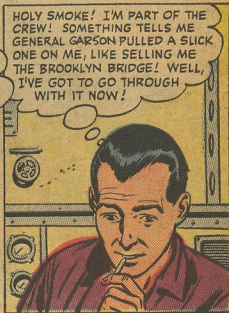
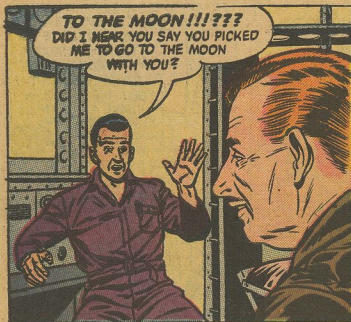
HI, GENERAL!
WHAT'S UP? YOU
LOOK AS EXCITED
AS A COLLISION!



JOE, WE'RE TAKING OFF
AT DAWN! CHANGE OF PLANS!
AND WE PICKED YOU AS THE
FOURTH MAN TO GO
TO THE MOON!

OH, IS THAT
ALL? SO I'M
GOING TO
THE MOON!

SPACE ADVENTURES



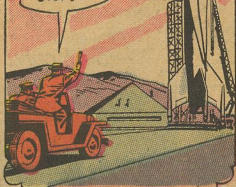
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The crucial hour approaches and four brave men are ready!

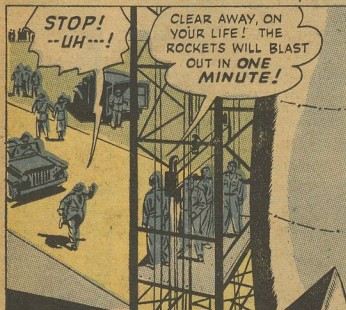


Suddenly...

WAIT! STOP! WE GOT WIND OF THIS! WE WILL GET A COURT INJUNCTION IF YOU DONT STOP!

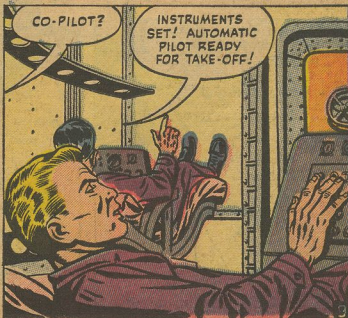
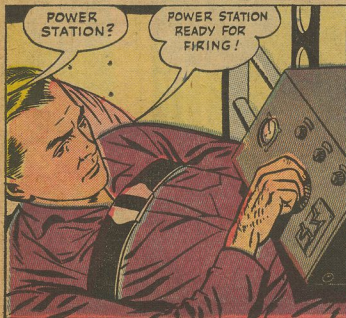


NOTHING WILL STOP US NOW! WE DONT NEED YOUR PERMISSION, AND YOU KNOW IT!! DONT TRY AND STOP US...WE'RE OFF!! ELEVATOR ALOFT! HURRY!



Soon, in the ship...

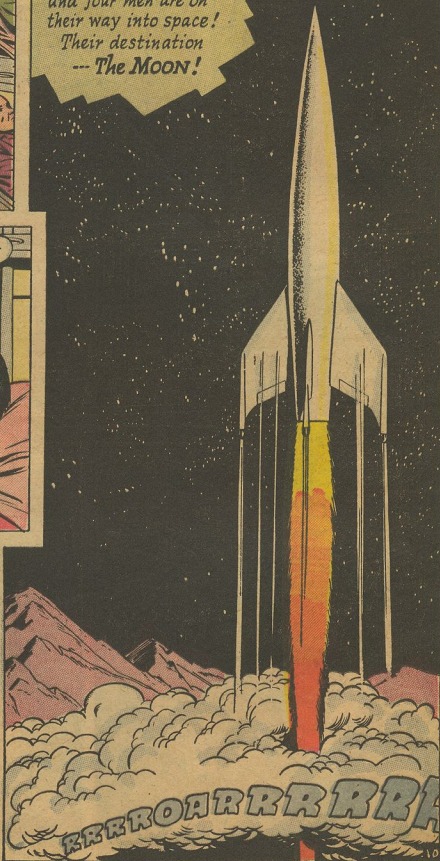
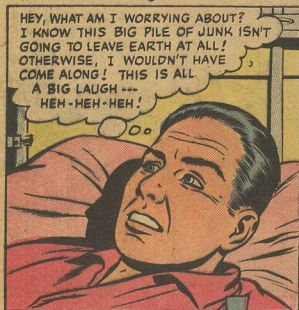
EVERYBODY SETTLED IN HIS COMPRESSION COUCH? THIRTY SECONDS TO GO!



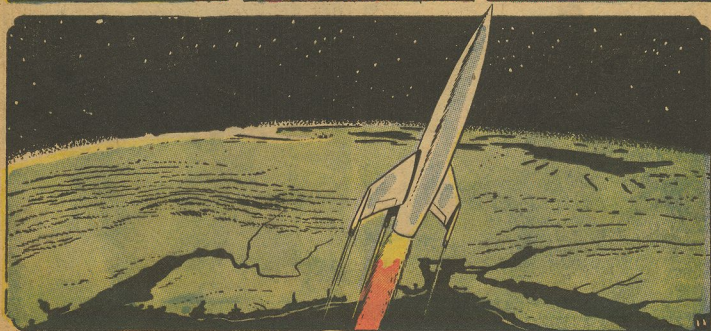
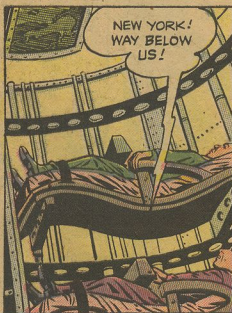
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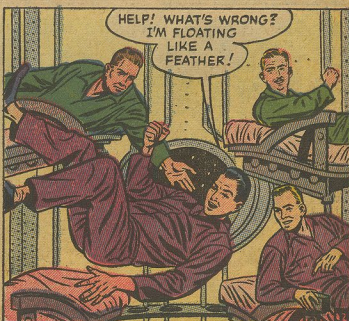
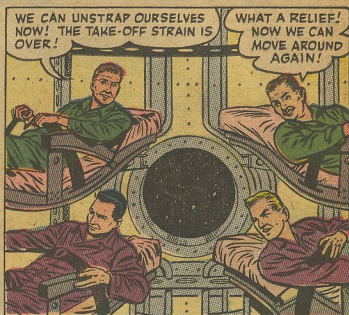
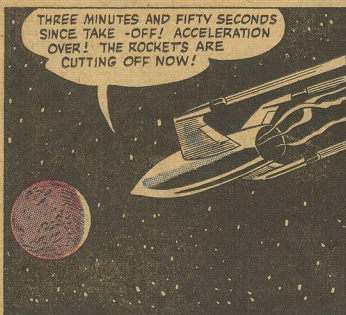
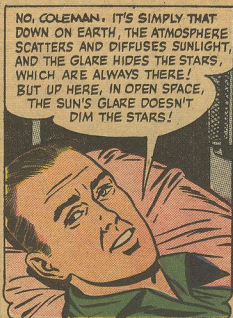
With an earth-shaking roar, the mighty atomic rockets burst forth with thunderous power, and four men are on their way into space! Their destination --- **The MOON!**



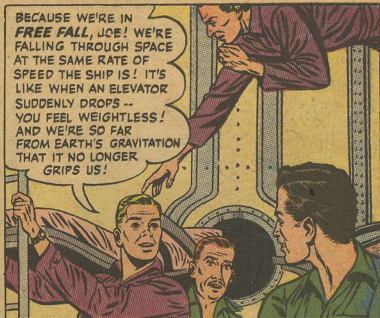
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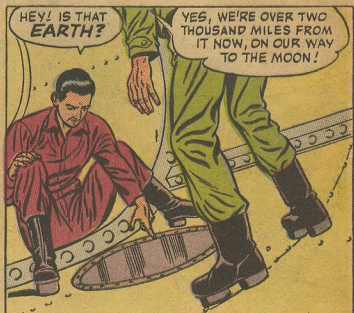
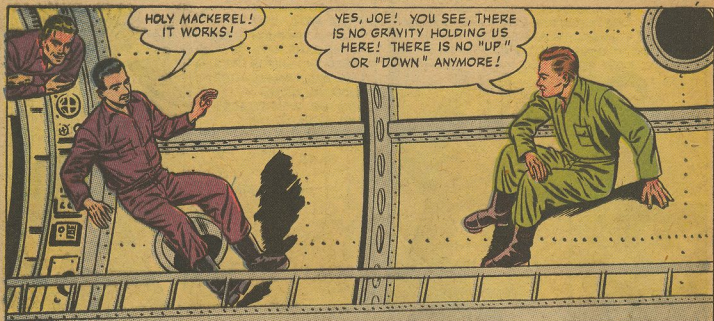
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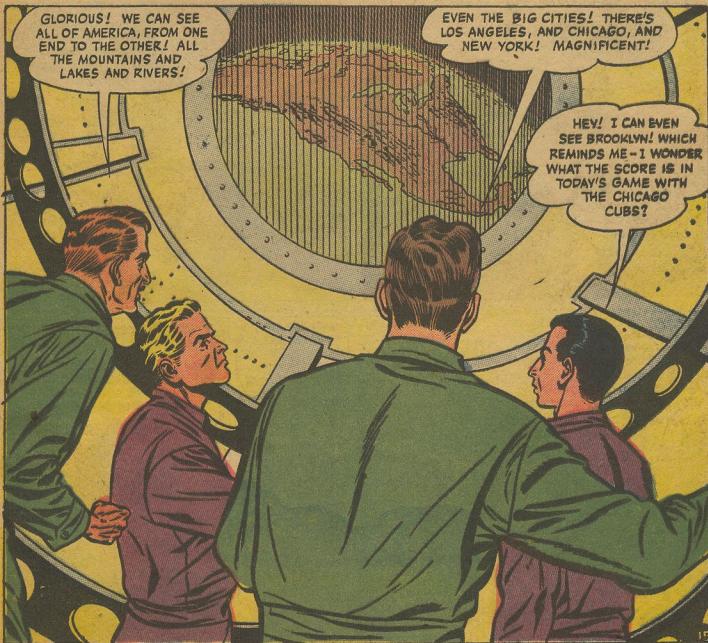
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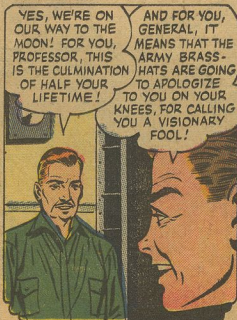
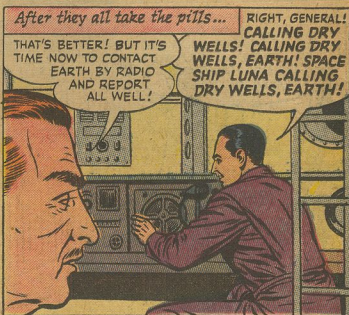
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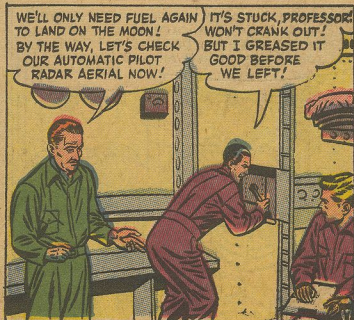
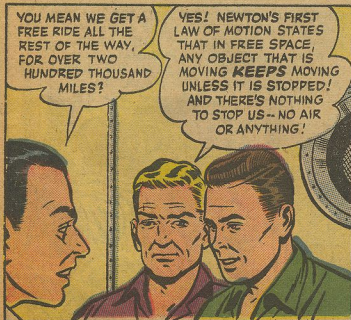
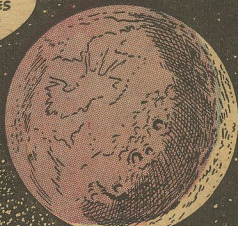


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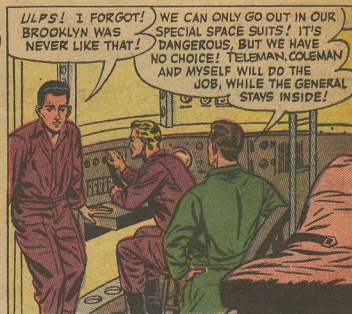
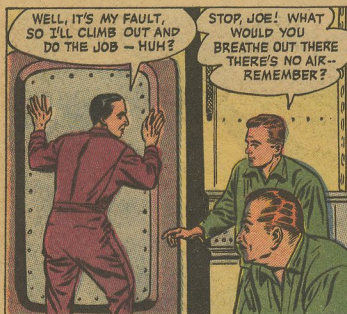


Time passes as the space ship bores its way through vast empty reaches toward the moon!

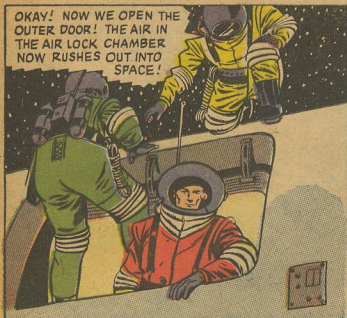
WE'RE COASTING IN FREE FALL TOWARD THE MOON AT OUR ORIGINAL SPEED OF TWENTY THOUSAND MILES AN HOUR! WE WON'T NEED A BIT MORE FUEL TILL WE LAND ON THE MOON!



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SPACE ADVENTURES.

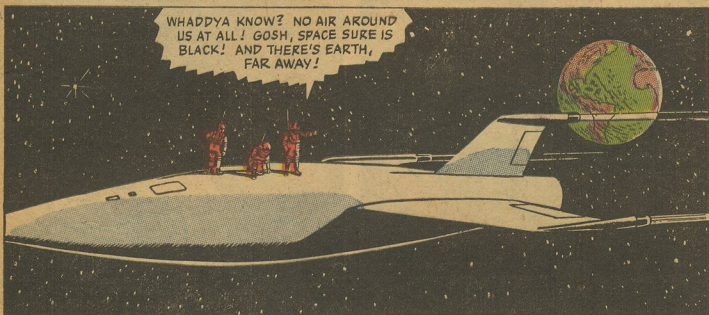


OKAY! NOW WE OPEN THE OUTER DOOR! THE AIR IN THE AIR LOCK CHAMBER NOW RUSHES OUT INTO SPACE!



AND WITHOUT AIR, NO SOUND CAN BE HEARD, OF COURSE! INTER-COM RADIOS IN YOUR HELMETS SWITCHED ON? CAN YOU HEAR ME?

OKAY, PROFESSOR!



WHADDYA KNOW? NO AIR AROUND US AT ALL! GOSH, SPACE SURE IS BLACK! AND THERE'S EARTH, FAR AWAY!



FASTEN YOUR SAFETY LINES RIGHT AWAY, MEN! EVEN THOUGH OUR MAGNETIC SHOES HOLD US DOWN, WE'RE TAKING NO CHANCES OF FLOATING OFF THROUGH SPACE!



THERE'S THE RADAR ANTENNA THAT'S STUCK! WE'LL LOOSEN IT IN A FEW MINUTES!



YOU TWO CAN FIX IT WITHOUT MY HELP! I'M GOING TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE ROCKET TUBES IN BACK TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE IN GOOD CONDITION!

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THE SAFETY LINE IS TOO SHORT TO LET ME SEE THE TUBES! WELL, MY MAGNETIC SHOES WILL HOLD ME THE REST OF THE WAY!



HMM! GUESS THE ROCKET TUBES HELD UP FINE!

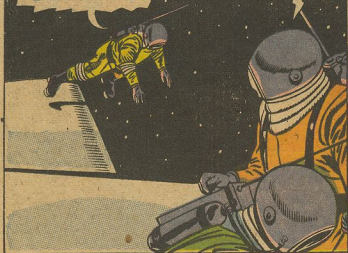


I'LL RETURN NOW AND -- EH? I'M FLOATING! I FORGOT THAT WHILE I KNEELED, MY MAGNETIC SHOES LOST CONTACT WITH THE STEEL HULL!

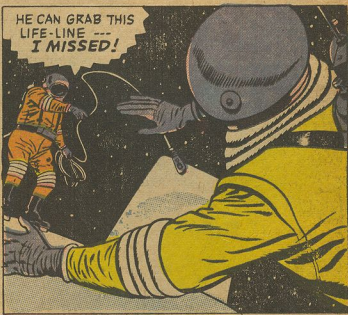


TELEMAN! JOE! HELP! HURRY! I'M ADRIFT!

GREAT SCOTT!



HE CAN GRAB THIS LIFE-LINE --- I MISSED!



I'LL TRY AGAIN --- OMIGOSH! IT'S TOO SHORT NOW!

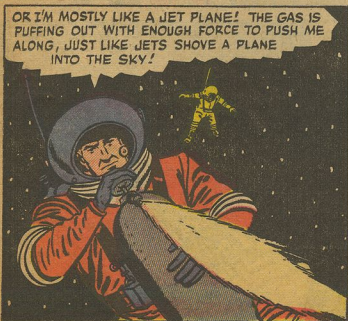


GOOD HEAVENS! THE PROFESSOR WILL KEEP FLOATING AWAY, SLOWLY BUT SURELY -- OUT INTO EMPTY SPACE!

WHAT A HORRIBLE WAY TO DIE -- ALONE IN SPACE! CAN'T WE DO SOMETHING TO SAVE HIM, TELEMAN?



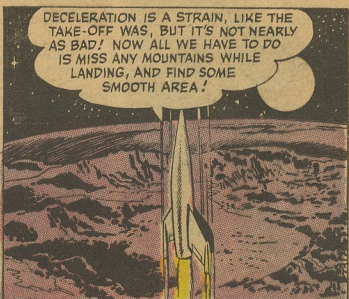
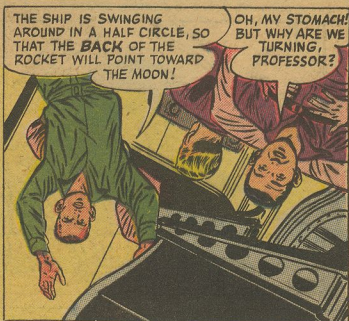
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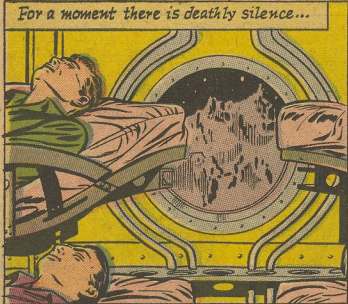


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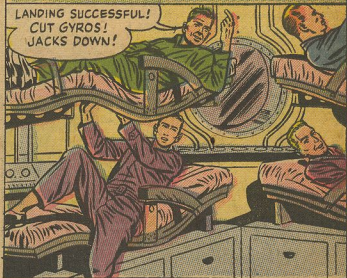
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For a moment there is deathly silence...

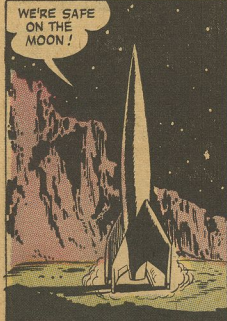


But the crew is only stunned and, soon...

LANDING SUCCESSFUL!
CUT GYROS!
JACKS DOWN!



WE'RE SAFE
ON THE
MOON!



FINE
LANDING,
TELEMAN!

IT WAS A BAD ONE
AND YOU KNOW IT! WE
USED **MORE FUEL**
THAN WE SHOULD
HAVE! HOPE IT
DIDN'T SHORT US
FOR THE TAKE-OFF
LATER!

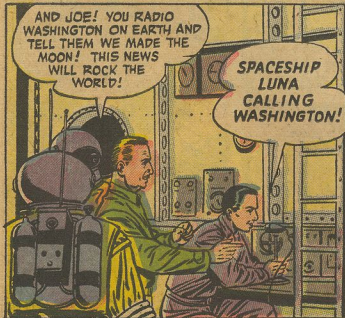


FORGET THAT RIGHT NOW! WE'RE
ON THE MOON, MEN! PROFESSOR,
YOU AND TELEMAN PUT ON YOUR
SPACE SUITS! YOU'LL HAVE THE
HONOR OF FIRST STEPPING OUT
ON THE MOON!



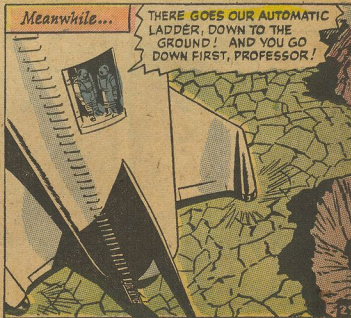
AND JOE! YOU RADIO
WASHINGTON ON EARTH AND
TELL THEM WE MADE THE
MOON! THIS NEWS
WILL ROCK THE
WORLD!

**SPACESHIP
LUNA
CALLING
WASHINGTON!**



Meanwhile...

THERE GOES OUR AUTOMATIC
LADDER, DOWN TO THE
GROUND! AND YOU GO
DOWN FIRST, PROFESSOR!

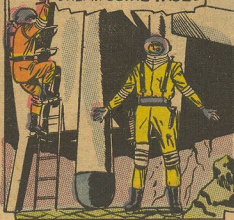


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YOU WILL HAVE THE HONOR OF BEING THE FIRST HUMAN BEING EVER TO SET FOOT ON THE MOON ITSELF!



WHAT AN HONOR! JUST TO THINK THAT ALL THROUGH FUTURE HISTORY NOW, IT WILL BE SAID THAT PROFESSOR EDWIN BUSHMAN, FIRST SET FOOT ON THE MOON! THIS IS MY LIFETIME'S DREAM **COME TRUE!**



NOW, CLAIM IT, PROFESSOR, LIKE COLUMBUS CLAIMED AMERICA!

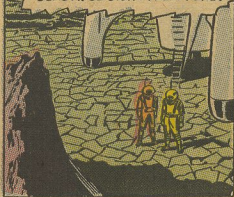
BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND IN THE NAME OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, I TAKE POSSESSION OF THIS PLANET ON BEHALF OF AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL MANKIND!



PROFESSOR! WASHINGTON CAME IN! THERE'S TERRIFIC EXCITEMENT ON EARTH! THEY'VE HOOKED UP ALL THE NETWORKS AND THEY WANT TO HEAR YOUR VOICE! GO AHEAD! I'VE HOOKED YOUR HELMET INTERCOM INTO THE CIRCUIT! ALL EARTH IS LISTENING — GO AHEAD!



HELLO, EARTH! YES, WE ARE ON THE MOON! IT'S AN UTTERLY BARREN WORLD, DESOLATE AND SILENT! I CAN'T BEGIN TO DESCRIBE THE WEIRD MOONSCAPE! AND EARTH ITSELF, LOOKING LIKE A GIANT MOON, IS A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT FROM HERE!

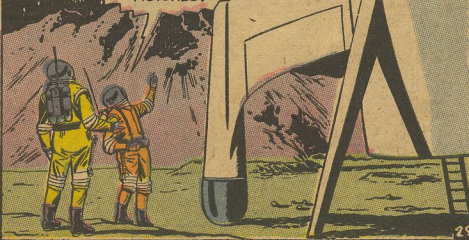


A WORD FROM JOE TELEMEN NOW, TOD!

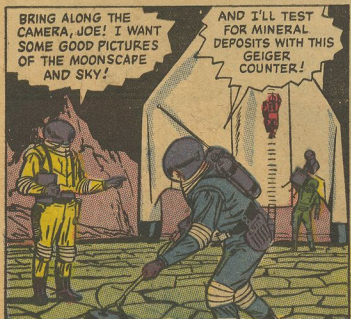
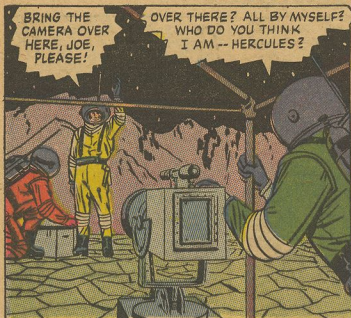
I CAN'T ADD MUCH TO WHAT THE PROFESSOR SAID, EXCEPT TO SAY THIS IS THRILLING BEYOND MEASURE! BUT WE'LL SIGN OFF NOW AS WE HAVE MANY THINGS TO DO BEFORE WE LEAVE AGAIN!



HERE COME THE GENERAL AND JOE COLEMAN WITH A SCHMIDT TELESCOPIC CAMERA TO TAKE PICTURES!



SPACE ADVENTURES



SPACE ADVENTURES



A LITTLE BACK, JOE -- NOW PUT UP YOUR ARMS AS IF HOLDING SOMETHING HEAVY -- THAT'S IT!

HUH? I DON'T GET IT! WHY THIS CRAZY POSE?



BECAUSE, JOE, THE EARTH IS RIGHT OVER YOU AND IN THIS PICTURE YOU WILL LOOK LIKE ATLAS HOLDING UP THE WORLD! SHOW **THAT** TO ALL YOUR GIRL FRIENDS!

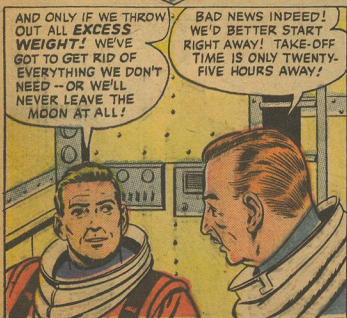


PROFESSOR! MY GEIGER COUNTER IS CLICKING! THAT MEANS A DEPOSIT OF URANIUM ORE HERE! WHO SAID THIS TRIP WOULDN'T BE WORTH WHILE? IT'LL PAY OFF IN **DOLLARS AND CENTS** SOME DAY!



TELEMAN! WE HAVE EXCITING NEWS ...

I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU MEN -- **BAD NEWS!** I CHECKED WITH HASTINGS ON EARTH! HE SAYS WE BARELY HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO LEAVE THE MOON!



AND ONLY IF WE THROW OUT ALL **EXCESS WEIGHT!** WE'VE GOT TO GET RID OF EVERYTHING WE DON'T NEED -- OR WE'LL NEVER LEAVE THE MOON AT ALL!

BAD NEWS INDEED! WE'D BETTER START RIGHT AWAY! TAKE-OFF TIME IS ONLY TWENTY-FIVE HOURS AWAY!



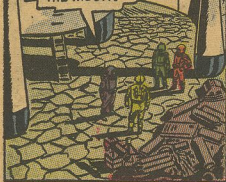
And, in the following hours, a grim task...

TOSS IT OUT! TOSS OUT ANYTHING THAT ISN'T ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR THE RETURN TRIP!

SPACE ADVENTURES

But as take-off time draws near...

WE'VE THROWN OUT ALMOST TWO AND A HALF TONS OF STUFF! BUT WE HAVE TO STRIP OUT ANOTHER **ONE HUNDRED TEN POUNDS**--OR WE CAN'T LEAVE THE MOON!



ONE HUNDRED TEN POUNDS? BUT GOSH, THE ONLY THING LEFT TO THROW OUT IS STUFF IN OUR POCKETS--AND THAT WON'T BE ENOUGH! WHAT'LL WE DO?



Four men look at one another with but a single dread thought!

THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER--A MAN'S WEIGHT IS OVER ONE HUNDRED TEN POUNDS! **ONE OF US HAS TO STAY BEHIND ON THE MOON!**



IT'LL BE ME, OF COURSE! I'M THE OLDEST AND MOST USELESS...



NO, GENERAL GARSON, I'VE HAD MY GREAT MOMENT OF GLORY, DISCOVERING THE MOON! I'LL STAY!



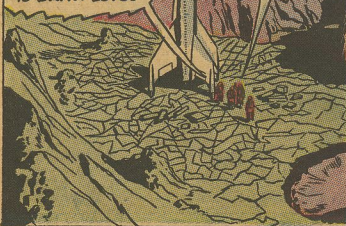
YOU'RE BOTH WRONG! I'M THE OFFICIAL CHIEF PILOT AND SKIPPER, SO I'M IN COMMAND! I COMMAND YOU ALL TO LEAVE, WHILE I STAY BEHIND!



I OBJECT!



HOLD IT, YOU GUYS! NO SENSE QUARRELING OVER WHO'S GOING TO BE THE HERO! THE ONLY FAIR THING IS TO **DRAW LOTS!**



JOE IS RIGHT! WE'LL DRAW LOTS! LOSER STAYS! LET'S GO UP IN THE SHIP!

I HAD TO SEARCH FOR THESE BUTTONS TO MATCH! BUT WE'RE READY TO DRAW LOTS NOW!



WAIT! COLEMAN IS GONE! HE SNEAKED AWAY FROM THE SHIP!

SPACE ADVENTURES



COLEMAN!
COME
BACK!

GOODBYE, FELLAS!
HAPPY TRIP HOME!
JUST DO ONE THING
FOR ME -- REMEMBER
ME TO ALL THE
GIRLS -- **ALL** THE
GIRLS ON EARTH!

THE FOOL! THE GLORIOUS, WONDERFUL,
HEROIC FOOL! WE TRICKED HIM
INTO THE TRIP IN THE FIRST
PLACE! NOW HE'S WILLING TO
GIVE UP HIS LIFE TO LET US
RETURN SAFELY TO EARTH!
BROOKLYN CAN BE
PROUD OF HIM!



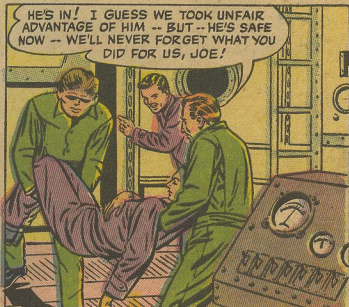
WAIT! WE WON'T LET HIM STAY
HERE AND DIE! I JUST FIGURED
OUT A WAY TO GET US **ALL**
SAFELY BACK TO EARTH!
LISTEN, JOE! WE CAN GET
ALONG WITHOUT THE RADIO
AND IF WE GET RID OF YOUR
SPACE SUIT AND MAGNETIC
SHOES, BEFORE YOU COME BACK
IN, WE'LL BE OKAY! NOW, HERE'S
WHAT YOU DO ...



ALL RIGHT, JOE!
TOSS OUT YOUR SUIT, RADIO
EQUIPMENT AND SHOES!
YOU'LL BE WITHOUT AIR
FOR A MINUTE OR TWO,
BUT WE'LL GET YOU
INSIDE BEFORE YOU
SUFFOCATE! READY?



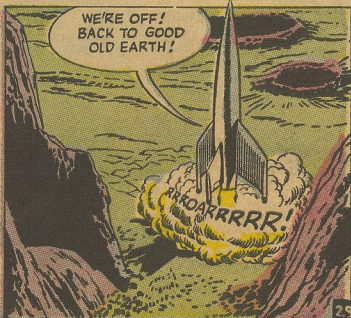
R-READY?



HE'S IN! I GUESS WE TOOK UNFAIR
ADVANTAGE OF HIM -- BUT -- HE'S SAFE
NOW -- WE'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU
DID FOR US, JOE!

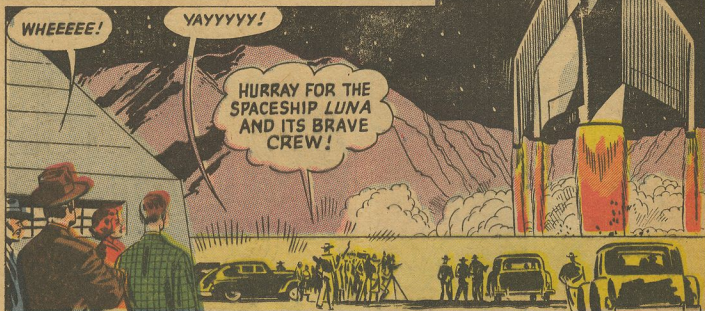
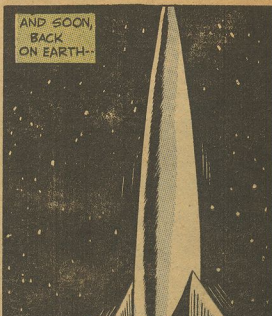


NOW WE CAN TAKE OFF
SAFELY! **HERE WE GO!**



WE'RE OFF!
BACK TO GOOD
OLD EARTH!

SPACE ADVENTURES



MOON VICTORY

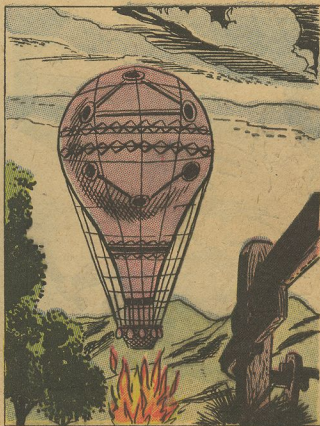
The line forms to the right if you desire to purchase a ticket for the first flight to the moon by rocket plane. Such tickets are now being sold by the British Rocket Society. And we now accept as a fact that before this century ends, the first space ship will land on the moon. On July 29, 1955, the United States announced that it planned to launch a man-made satellite 200-300 miles into outer space. It will weigh, perhaps 100 pounds, and will travel at the speed of 18,000 miles an hour, circumnavigating the earth each ninety minutes. Yet Dr. Herman Oberth, back in the Nineteen Twenties, with the late Count Polonic of Austria, suggested the same idea.

Of course there are many questions that you want to ask about a trip to the moon. And even more important are the questions about how all this came about. How did man get the idea of flying? How did he get the idea about rockets? And why did he pick on the Moon. Suppose we answer those last three questions and we will begin with the first one now. How did man get the idea of flying?

Man was born and still is a land animal. Using his feet he can walk and run. If he wants to go faster on land he makes use of machines which he has invented, such as the automobile or the train. If he wants to cross water he can use boats to go on the water submarines to go underneath the water, and planes to go above the water. If he can swim, then he can go through the water.

Primitive man could go on land. To some extent he could cross water on rude boats. But the birds had an advantage that he envied. They could fly across water or across land with apparent ease. Now it is simple to see how men watching a bird could start day dreaming and wishing they too could have a pair of wings. A day dream can be a waste of time or it can be very fruitful. A lot of different people looking at birds over the centuries had the same desire to fly.

Daedalus was the architect who built the Labyrinth for the Minotaur in Crete according to ancient mythology. He incurred the displeasure of the king and was imprisoned in the Labyrinth with his son, Icarus. In order to escape, Daedalus made two pairs of wings. He warned his son to keep a middle course over the sea. If he flew too high, the sun would melt the glue and the wings would drop off. Father and son flew to freedom, but the son didn't follow the advice and flew too high.



The result was he landed into the sea and died. You can spot a scientific flaw in the story. If Icarus flew too high, ice should have formed on his wings!

There is also a bogus story about Archytas who was a scholar of Taranto. It was said that in the fourth century, B. C., that he built

a dove which could fly by means of some hidden power. But what is important in this story is the idea of making something outside of man himself that would fly.

Now we pay a visit to the thirteen century and meet Roger Bacon. He knew that water could buoy up a ship. So he suggested that air could do the same for a ship that could leave earth and go above it. He put it on paper and that was as far as he got. In the fifteenth century, a genius by the name of Leonardo da Vinci appears on the scene. He was almost everything you could name, from a painter to sculptor, from architect to engineer, and from writer to inventor. It seems that he did build model helicopters that flew. He made drawings of many of his ideas about how to build a machine that would fly.

For a dreamer who almost had the idea about a balloon, mention should be made of Francesco de Lana. He visualized a basket



that was attached to four spheres. They would be light and thin and when exhausted of the air they contained, they should float into the air. There was a terrible flaw in his theory: If you exhaust the air from a can or sphere, the sides will be forced in by the air pressure outside. But he did have something sound: The idea of a balloon. All that was needed

was to fill the spheres with something lighter than air.

In 1766 an English scientist, Henry Cavendish discovered the element we call hydrogen. Now it almost looks as if we could get a balloon into the air at this time. For in 1781, Tiberius Cavallo, an Italian, filled a pig's bladder with this new mysterious gas. But alas, the bladder was too heavy, and the balloon didn't rise. And then two brothers in France, Joseph and Etienne Montgolfier noticed that the smoke from their chimney always tended to rise. They made a silk bag and burned paper underneath. The bag rose and the balloon was born! And so people started to leave the earth. First in hot air balloons and then in hydrogen filled balloons.

However it became apparent that a balloon was at the mercy of the winds. If one could attach an engine and a propellor, then the balloon should go where directed. Many worked on the idea though at the start they were handicapped by the fact that the only engine that could be used was a heavy steam engine. But in 1852 the first successful propelled balloon was flown. It was designed by a French engineer, Henri Gifford. The first all metal balloon was built in Germany by David Schwarz. He died before it was finished and his wife continued his work. In 1897 it made its flight. Count Ferdinand Von Zeppelin and others worked on the same idea.

But there was also a different way to tackle the problem of a flying machine. Men dreamed about a rigid, non-gas machine, that would go through the air. This means you are back to the dream about wings. And such a machine is one that is heavier than air.

So we go back to the time of Louis XIV and meet a French locksmith by the name of Besnier. In 1678 he decided to build wings. He started jumping from distances and thus actually had created the glider. Others continued along the same line. Sir George Cayley started his first experiments in 1796 in England. He eventually made a glider with a wing surface of 300 square feet. One of the greatest of all gliders was Otto Lilienthal. Between the years of 1891 and 1896 he made about two thousand gliding flights. He even had built a small motor. The day of the airplane was coming. Unfortunately he died in a crash of one of his gliders. Others continued on the idea of a motor and a glider. Samuel Langley almost made a successful plane. But credit

goes to the Wright Brothers. And from then on the airplane had come of age. What was needed could be stated simply: Better motors, better controls, and a better ship body.

Now where did man get the idea of rockets? Our first written account goes back to the year 1232 A.D. Siege is being laid to the city of Kai-fung-fu or Pien-King and the Chinese are defending the city with "arrows of flying fire." To the best of our knowledge these were real rockets probably attached to arrows. The idea of using rockets came into Europe. Now get ready for a shocker. In the fifteenth century there lived Joanes de Fontana who was a military expert. His idea was to send rockets over to the enemy lines in various disguises. These he drew and even added a rocket car. Rockets were used in battle. But the idea of using rockets as a power also seems to have been tried in the same century by one, Wan-Hoo. He is said to have attached rockets to a chair and figured the chair would move with him in it. It wasn't exactly successful.

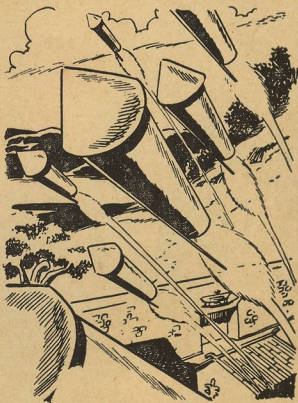
But rockets continued as a military weapon. The Prince of Mysore, Hyder Ali, in the eighteenth century, had a rocket corps in his army. The English navy used thousands of rockets when they attacked Copenhagen in 1807. And during the war of 1812, Francis Scott Key watched and wrote, "And the rockets' red glare . . ." It was William Congreve who started his war rocket experiments in 1801 that helped the British in their fighting. During the nineteenth century, many thought about airplanes going through the skies by rocket power. There were drawings made of such planes but that is as far as they went. One has to jump to the twentieth century when in 1928, Fritz Opel drove a rocket powered car at the rate of 125 miles an hour. It was dramatic and people began to talk about using rocket power.

But it took World War II to accentuate the development of the rocket as a weapon and the rocket as a motive power for planes. But the moment the rocket was used to drive a plane, the craft could go beyond our concept

of an atmosphere, for it wasn't dependent upon the oxygen in the atmosphere.

Finally, why did man pick on the Moon? The Moon was important for various reasons. It helped in the calculations of rough calendars. A connection between tides and the Moon was noticed. The light of the Moon helped against a sudden enemy attack. And some people even worshipped the Moon.

Once people began to ponder about the Moon, it was only natural that some curious person might think about going there — in his imagination. Lucian of Samosata actually



wrote a story about a ship that landed on the Moon. This was a "First for the Greeks." There were others who also wrote about the Moon way before our modern Science Fiction travel stories hit the presses.

Now put them all in one unit: A plane, rockets, and the Moon as the Destination. So you better hurry up and buy your tickets for friends on the Space Stations. Good Luck to the first trip. Hope you meet some of my friends you Moon Travelers!

— THE END —

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